expansion of his episcopal seat, invited the Jews to the town, endowed them with lavish privileges and provided them with a special quarter within the walls. " Wishing to make of Speyer a city," he boasted, *"I* thought to increase its honour a thousandfold by bringing in the Jews." He was by no means alone in holding such ideas. At the other extreme of the Middle Ages, in 1569, the city of Orange, in the south of France, was in the depths of depression, its wealth dwindling and its commerce languishing. There were at that time no Jews in the city, and the Town Council recommended, as one of the measures for restoring prosperity, that "two hundred Jewish households" should be invited to settle. So also, when the position of the Jews at Neustettin was menaced, the gilds appealed almost unanimously to the King of Poland to leave them undisturbed.[1]

Or take another scene—one of the most tragic of this period. When the Jews were expelled from Spain, in 1492, the overseas possessions of the Crown of Aragon— particularly Sardinia and Sicily—were included in the edict. It was in vain that the Council of the latter kingdom protested, pointing out the loss which the people as a whole would (and indeed did) suffer in consequence of this measure. On January 12th, 1493, the last Jews left Palermo. It is on record that, so long as

[1] It must not be imagined that these instances are isolated. In Lindau, when the interest on loans made by Christian merchants rose to 216 per cent, the citizens begged for the admission of the Jews

to the town as thoir only salvation. In 1544, and again in 1550, when the Emperor Charles V issued a docroe expelling the crypto-Jews from Antwerp, the magistrates of the city protested, on the grounds that such action would spell ruin to the city and the state. The new oppressive legislation enacted by the Venetian Government at the close of the eighteenth century elicited protests from the municipalities of Verona and Ceneda. In 1781 the civic authorities at Avignon testified that the Jewish community of that place contributed greatly to its welfare, and gave no cause for complaint by their conduct as regards morality, religion, or commercial life. Similar illustrations can be multiplied.